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## CIA's Casey Weathers a Storm

William Casey is staying on as director of the Central Intelligence Agency—but not without the close and continuing scrutiny of Congress.

The Senate Intelligence Committee questioned Casey for 5 hours on July 29 and unanimously concluded that there was no reason to remove him as CIA director. Only days before, three Republican senators—including committee Chairman Barry Goldwater (R-Ariz.)—had called for Casey to quit.

How did Casey pull through? Some help came in a statement of support from Ronald Reagan, a Casey backer ever since the New York lawyer directed his presidential campaign. But even more important was Casey's personal promise to keep the committee fully informed about CIA operations.

The clamor for Casey to quit had been prompted by his failure to tell

committee members two things about Max Hugel, the outsider he appointed as CIA spymaster. He had neglected to inform the senators in advance that he was naming Hugel to the key job, and he failed to tell them about accusations of financial misconduct that forced Hugel on July 14 to resign. There also were claims that Casey himself had questionable business dealings.

Congressional oversight of the CIA has been a touchy issue ever since Congress learned of abuses by the agency during the Watergate era. Those disclosures led to tight rules requiring the CIA to account for its actions to eight committees of Congress. Later, at the CIA's request, that number was trimmed to two—one in each house.

One Senate panel member noted that Casey's reticence with Congress was not unprecedented. Stansfield Turner, Jimmy Carter's CIA chief, also told lawmakers too little, the senator said, but later developed "the skill of rapport." He added: "I think Casey now has caught the spirit of consultation." □